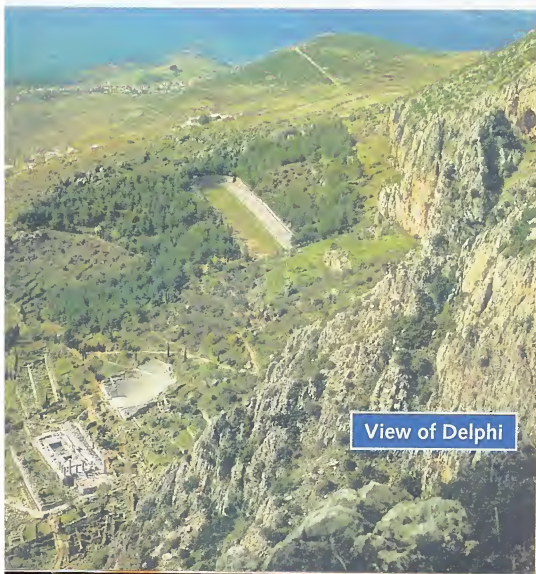


3

THE GREEK WORLD



A Parthenon frieze



View of Delphi



The **Greek civilisation** developed on the Balkan Peninsula, the islands of the Aegean Sea and in many coastal areas of the Mediterranean.

The civilisation was based on the **polis**. Poleis were independent city-states. However, they were united by a shared language and religion.

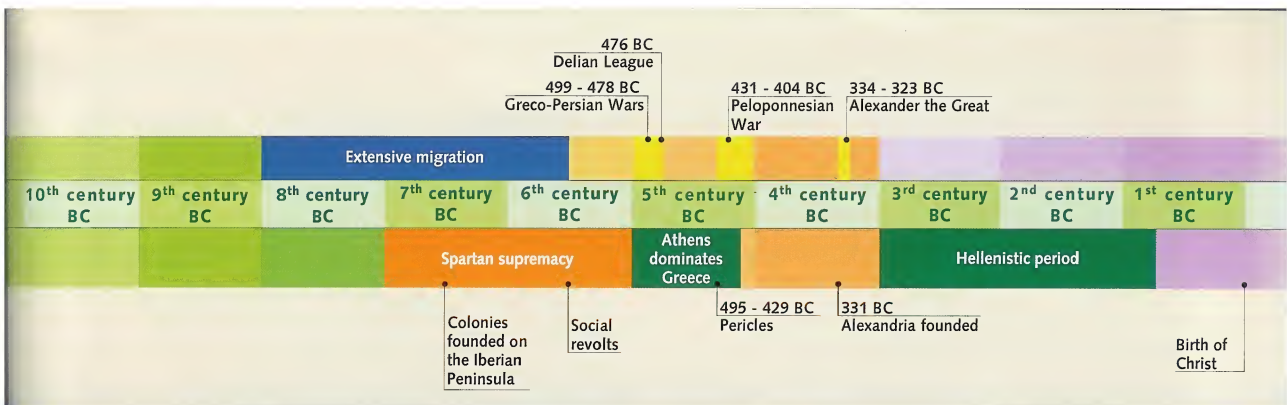
The first governments were oligarchies (small groups of aristocrats). Later, in Athens, **democracy** was introduced and the citizens had a say in government.

With the conquests of **Alexander the Great** in the 4th century BC, Greek culture expanded eastward. As a result, other great civilisations adopted elements of Greek culture.

- Where did Greek civilisation first appear?
- How was this civilisation organised?
- Where did the first democracy begin?
- How did Greek culture spread to other cultures?

WORDS FOR THIS UNIT

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| • polis | • democracy | • oligarchy |
| • acropolis | • magistrate | • phalanx |
| • colony | • citizen | • metropolis |



The Parthenon in Athens

1

The Greek world: the poleis

1.1. ONE CIVILISATION

Ancient Greeks worked in **agriculture** (olives, vineyards and wheat), **livestock farming** (goats and sheep) and **fishing**. They **traded** throughout the Mediterranean.

Greece was politically fragmented. Each valley and island had an independent city-state, called a **polis**.

However, all Greeks had the same language and religion. They saw themselves as members of the same culture.

The first Greeks

Greeks were a mix of different peoples that migrated to Greece in large numbers. These people integrated into the existing population:

- The **Achaeans** came from the north and arrived around 2000 BC. They were also called **Mycenaeans** after their most important city, Mycenae.
- The **Dorians** also came from the north, arriving in Greece around 1200 BC.

- a** How did Greeks make a living?
b Which groups migrated to Greece? When?

THE GREEK WORLD



LANGUAGE AND RELIGION



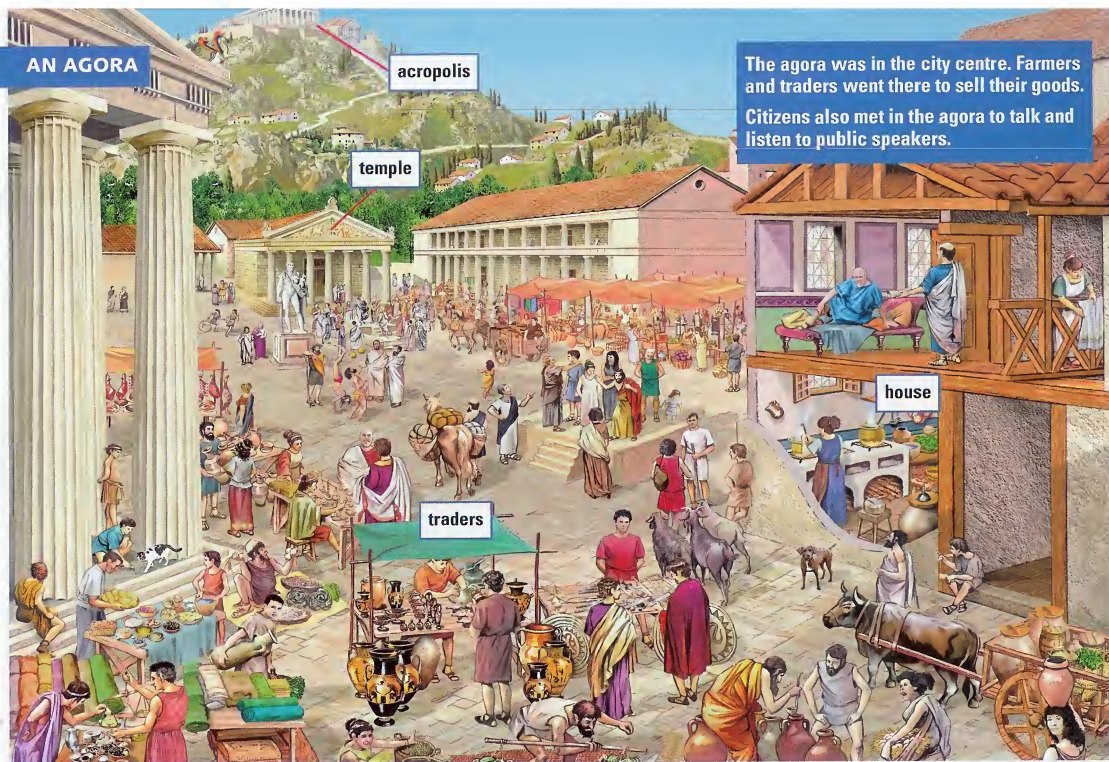
All Greeks used the same **language** and alphabet. Homer's poems (the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*) explained their common origin and the achievements of their ancestors.

Greeks also worshipped the same gods. The Greek religion was **polytheistic**. This means that they believed in many gods. The Greek gods lived on Mount Olympus.

THE CITY OF MYCENAE



A gold mask of King Agamemnon found in a tomb.



1.2. THE POLEIS

Each polis was made up of a city and the surrounding land and villages. The polis had laws, currency and an army. It had two parts:

- **Upper part (acropolis):** A citadel containing the main religious buildings.
- **Lower part:** An area with housing, public buildings and shops organised around a square, or **agora**.

c What was the difference between the two parts of the city?

1.3. FROM OLIGARCHY TO DEMOCRACY

The first poleis were governed by small groups of aristocrats, or **oligarchies**. In some city-states, such as **Sparta**, this type of government never changed.

In **Athens**, citizen-soldiers (**hoplites**) who helped defend the city demanded a say in government. This led to social and political reform that gave power to more of the citizens (**demos**). This new form of government was called **democracy**.

d What two types of government existed in the poleis?

QUICK REVISION

- Greek civilisation developed on the Balkan Peninsula and the islands of the Aegean Sea.
- The Greeks were organised into independent city-states, called poleis.
- Most poleis changed their form of government from oligarchies to democracies.

ACTIVITIES

- 1 What characteristics did all Greeks share?
- 2 Which part of the city was the agora in?
- 3 What were the citizen-soldiers that defended Athens called?
- 4 Correct the sentences:
 - a) The Greek civilisation developed on the islands of the Aegean Sea.
 - b) The acropolis and the agora were both located in the city centre.
 - c) The first poleis had a democratic government.

2

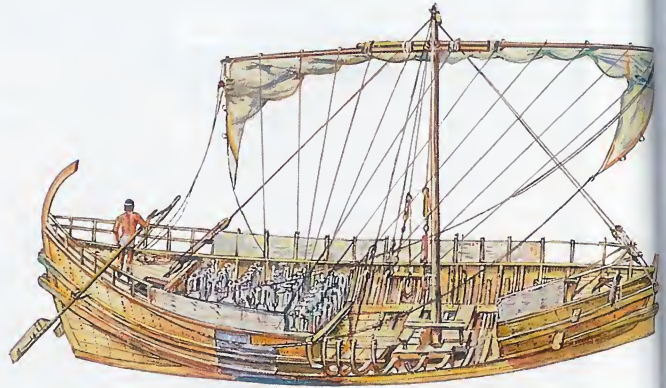
The Greek colonies

2.1. THE CREATION OF THE COLONIES

Between the 8th and 6th centuries BC, many Greeks migrated to coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

This migration was due to the scarcity of land and the poor living conditions of many peasants. These migrant Greeks founded **colonies** that resembled Greek cities.

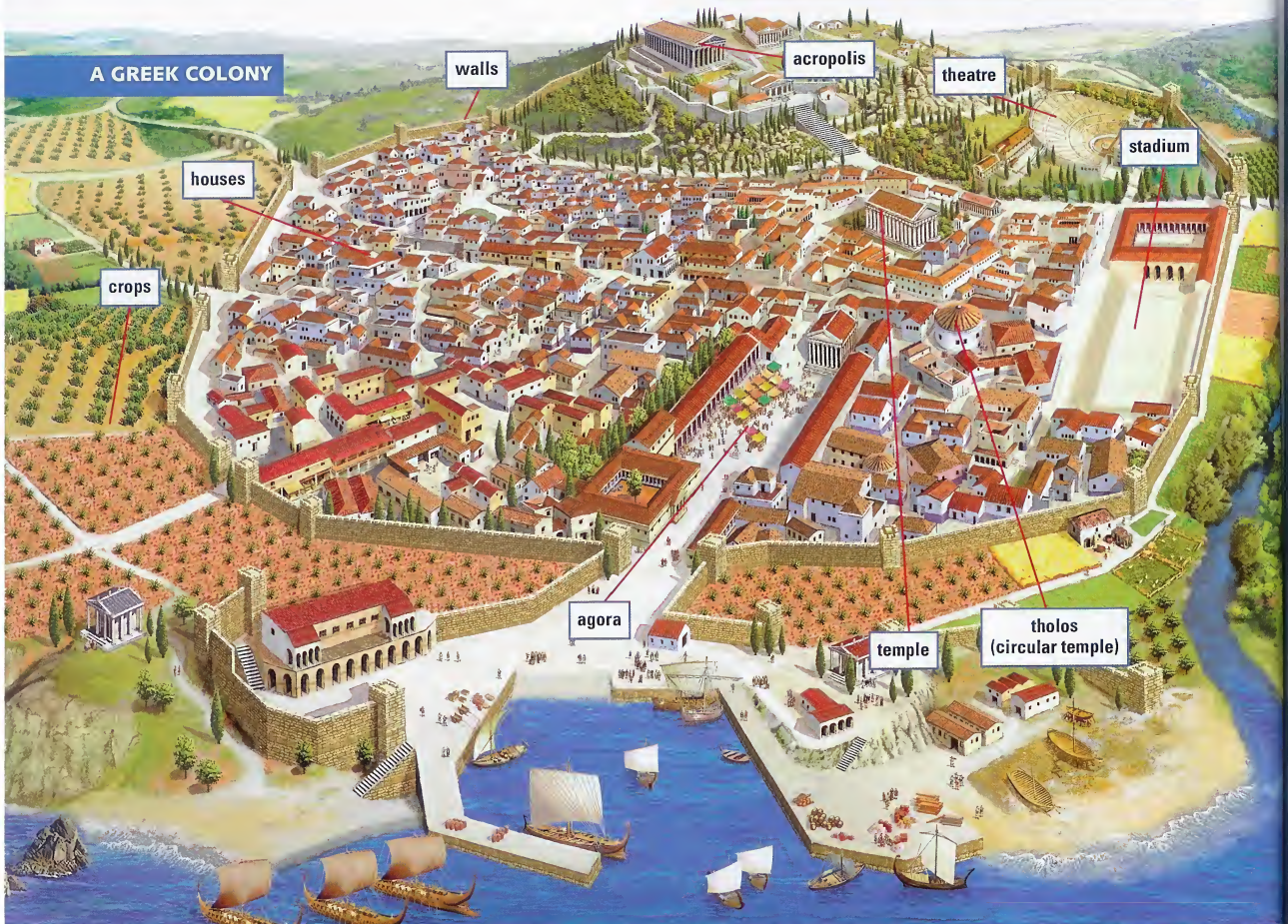
Greek governments helped organise these migrations as they brought advantages. Because of the migrations, the unemployed moved away. Also, the construction of boats for the journey provided the city with income.



Greek ships were powered by sails and had large hulls to store cargo.

- a What was the name given to the cities that Greeks founded outside of their territory?

The colonies were located on fertile land. Farmland surrounded the city centre and there was a port nearby.



GREEK MIGRATIONS (8TH – 6TH CENTURIES BC)



2.2. THE GREEK EXPANSION

The Greeks moved along the coast looking for places to settle and trade with the local peoples.

The colonies were independent from their city of origin (**metropolis**). However, they had commercial and cultural links with the city.

Greek colonisation in the Mediterranean was most extensive in **Southern Italy** and **Sicily** (Magna Graecia). **Massalia** (Marseille) was also a very important colony.

The Greeks also founded many colonies on the **Iberian Peninsula**. These included Rhode, Emporiae, Hemeroscopium and Menace. Here they traded precious metals with the local peoples, the Tartessians and the Iberians.

The lives of the local peoples changed dramatically through their contact with the Greeks. The Greeks introduced the potter's wheel, ironworking, currency and writing. They also introduced the cultivation of vineyards and olives.

- b** Where were the most important Greek colonies in the Mediterranean?

1 Which area did the Greeks who colonised the Mediterranean come from?

2 Name some of the most important Greek colonies.

LOOK

at the picture of the Greek colony

1 Complete the sentences:

- Greek colonies were surrounded by
- The was located on the hill.
- Most colonies had a for transporting goods by sea.
- The main buildings were the, the and the

ACTIVITIES

- What name did the Greeks in the colonies give to their city of origin?
- Which indigenous peoples did the Greeks trade with on the Iberian Peninsula?

3 Democracy in Athens

3.1. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

In the 5th century BC, **Athens** became a democracy. The citizens participated in politics and were protected by the law. There were four main democratic institutions in Athens:

- The **Assembly (Ecclesia)** voted on laws, budgets and made decisions on wars.
- The **magistrates** were citizens elected by the Assembly. The strategists controlled foreign policy and the army. The archons presided over trials and religious ceremonies.
- The **public courts (Heliia)** were made up of 6000 citizens. These citizens were over 30 years old and were elected annually.
- The **boule** was made up of 500 citizens chosen at random. They made laws and oversaw the magistrates.

The limits of democracy

Athenian democracy was very limited, as only **citizens** could participate. Citizens were defined as free adult men with a father who was a citizen and an Athenian mother. In exchange for their participation in politics, citizens had to serve in the army and pay taxes.

The rest of the population (women, foreign residents, or metics, and slaves) did not have the same rights as citizens. In the 5th century BC, the famous statesman **Pericles** introduced the idea of paid public office. This meant that even the poorest citizens could participate in politics.

- a** When did Athens become a democracy? Who was considered a citizen?

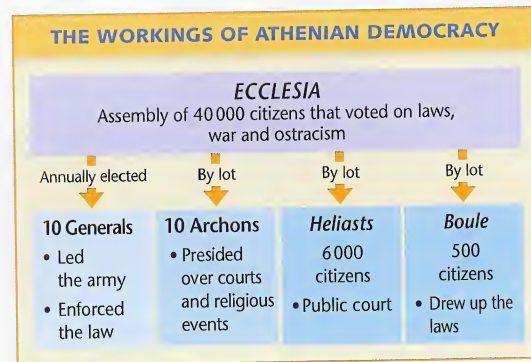
WHAT IS A DEMOCRACY?

As the decisions depend not on a minority but rather a majority, this is a democracy.

The law is the same for all and it is not wealth but rather merit and ability that give men access to position and honour.

Politicians avoid doing anything illegal because the citizens oversee and supervise the magistrates and the laws.

PERICLES. 5th century BC

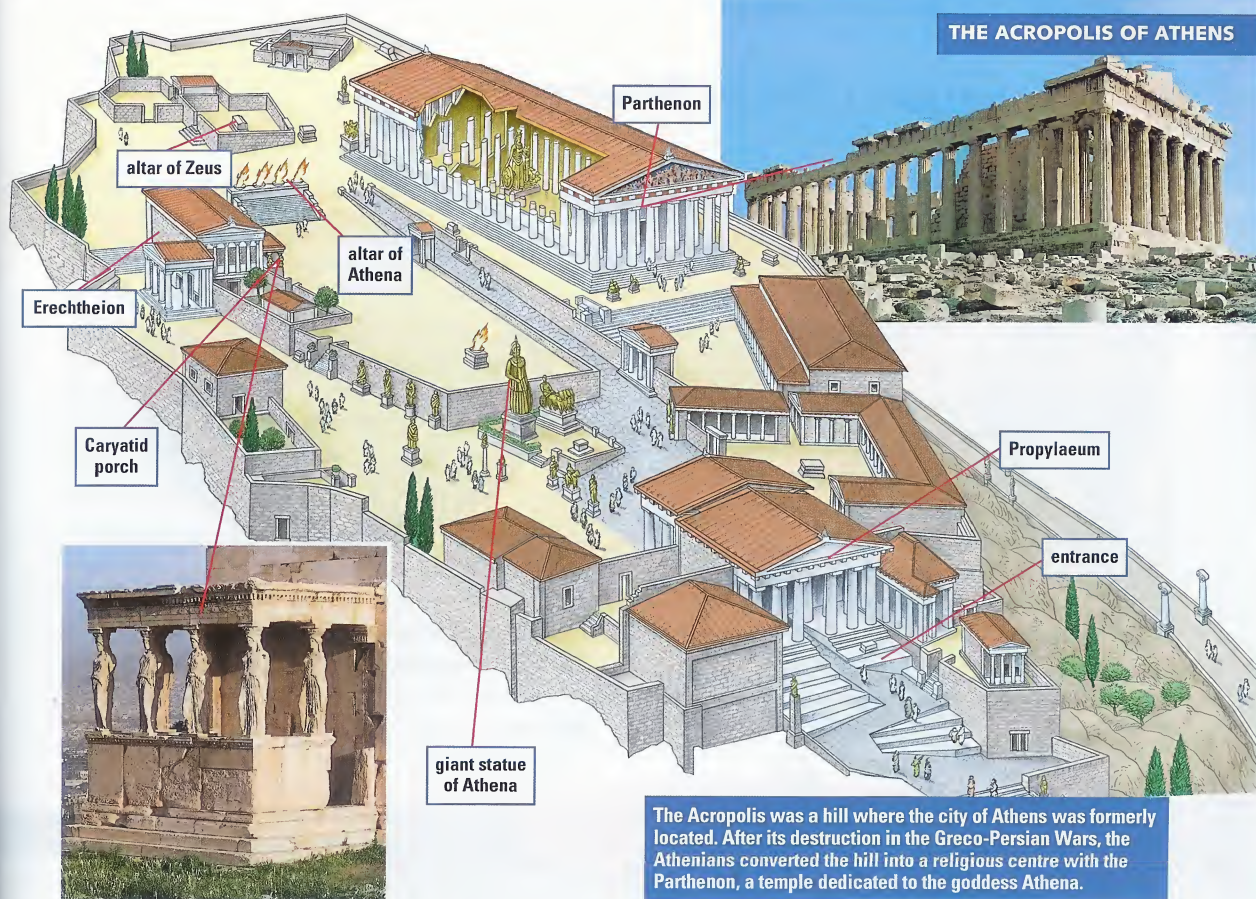


1 Look at the diagram. Describe the main institutions in Athenian democracy.

2 Where does the power come from in this system?



Bust of Pericles.



3.2. ATHENS' GOLDEN AGE

In the 5th century BC, Athens experienced a golden age.

The Persians (or Maedi) came from the east to conquer the Greek poleis. This began the **Greco-Persian Wars**. Athens won the war and took control of the other Greek cities. The **Delian League**, an association of poleis under the leadership of Athens, was formed.

The poor treatment that the poleis received from Athens made many want to abandon the Delian League. Athens forced them to stay and pay more taxes. This led to the **Peloponnesian War** and an end to the dominance of Athens.

- b** Which wars took place in Greece in the 5th century BC?

QUICK REVISION

- In the 5th century BC, Athens became a democracy.
- Only citizens could participate in Athenian democracy.
- Athens experienced a golden age in the 5th century BC.

ACTIVITIES

- 1** Who was Pericles? What did he achieve?
- 2** What was the name of the association of poleis under the control of Athens? When was it formed?
- 3** What is democracy? How does democracy today differ from Athenian democracy?

- 14** Look at the diagram of Athenian democracy. Listen and find. Which element is being described?

4

Everyday life in Athens

4.1. EVERYDAY LIFE IN ATHENS

Like most Greek cities, Athens was surrounded by walls and had narrow streets. There were no sewers, water was scarce and no one collected the rubbish.

The streets were full of activity. Athenians bought goods, met friends and discussed politics in the street.

Houses in Athens had one or two floors. The houses were organised around a central patio. From here, the inhabitants could enter different rooms. There was a room reserved for women (**gynaecium**) and another room for men (**andron**).

a What were the different areas of an Athenian house?

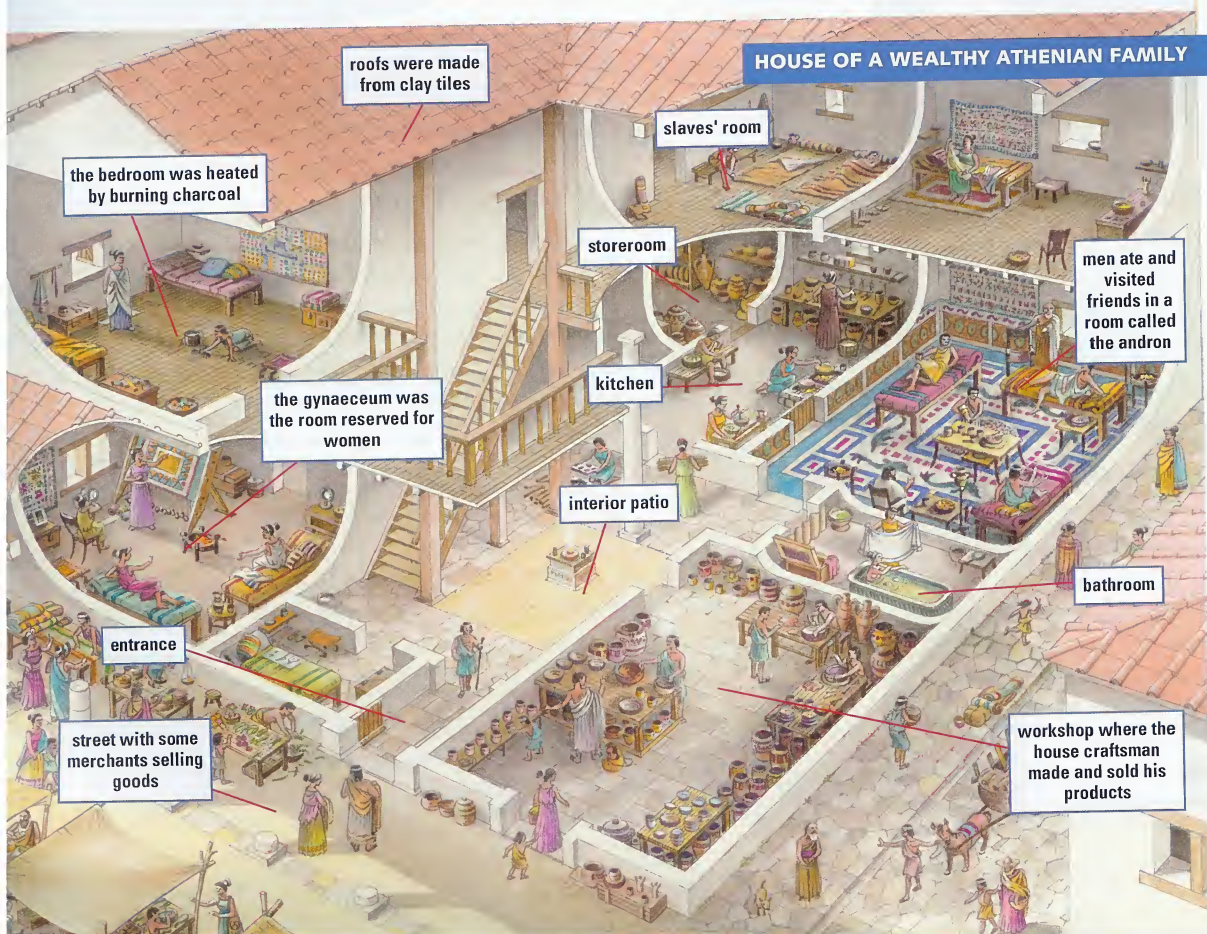
Netsurfers

Find information about everyday life in the houses and streets of Athens. Make a fact file about the information that you find. Then compare your fact file with your classmates'. Look at the links in Netsurfers to help you.

www.vicensvives.net/netsurfers

3

- 1 Describe the different rooms in the house of a wealthy Athenian family.
- 2 Which products did the house craftsman make?



4.2. THE FAMILY

The **father** was the head of the family. **Women** had a guardian all their lives. When single, their father served as guardian. Once they were married, their husband adopted the role. Finally, their eldest son became their guardian if they became a widow.

Women spent most of their time at home. They only left when accompanied, and to attend religious events.

Sons lived with their mother until they went away to school at the age of seven. After completing military service, they were recognised as citizens. **Daughters** lived with their mother, who taught them how to look after the house.

b Who was in charge of women during their lives?

4.3. DIET AND DRESS

The basic ingredients of the Greek diet included semolina, bread, cheese, vegetables, eggs, olives, figs and fruit. The wealthy also ate meat and fish.

Greek men commonly wore a linen tunic called a **chiton** under a heavier cloak called a **himation**. Women wore a **peplos**, a long tunic gathered at the waist with a belt and pinned at the shoulders with brooches.

The most common footwear was leather sandals. They also used hats to protect themselves from the Sun.

c What did Greek men and women wear?



Greek ceramics representing the different everyday activities of women.



These statues show how Athenian men and women dressed.

ACTIVITIES

- 1** How were the streets in Athens organised? Did the city have sewers or rubbish collection?
- 2** Describe daily life in the street in Athens.
- 3** What were the main features of Greek houses?

- 4** What were the roles of the men and women in the Athenian family?
- 5** Were boys and girls raised differently? How?
- 6** What were the staples of the Greek diet?

5 Alexander the Great's empire

5.1. THE KINGDOM OF MACEDONIA AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT

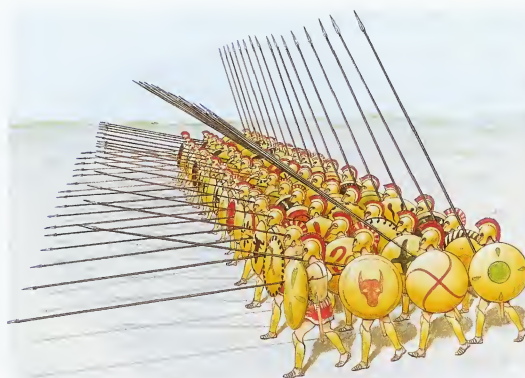
Macedonia in the north of Greece was governed by a monarchy. Its king, **Philip II**, conquered many Greek cities in the 4th century BC. Philip had a strong infantry based on a formation known as the **phalanx**. Philip used the phalanx in the Peloponnesian War.

Philip II's son, **Alexander** (later Alexander the Great), became king when he was 20. Alexander had been educated in Greek culture and philosophy.

He unified the Greek city-states and confronted the huge Persian Empire. In 10 years, he gained control of the Persian Empire and reached India. His conquests made Greece very wealthy and powerful.

Alexander wanted to create a single empire from Europe to Asia. Each territory in the empire had to adopt Greek language and culture. However, the local people could keep their own social and political customs.

- a When did the conquests of Philip II happen?
- b How old was Alexander the Great when he became the king?



The phalanx formation consisted of lines of soldiers armed with long spears and shields.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Philip II saw that his son was inflexible and independent. However, he liked to learn and would listen to those that could teach him to reason. So, Philip sent for the most famous philosopher in Greece, Aristotle. Aristotle became Alexander's teacher. He learned about morals, politics and philosophy from Aristotle.

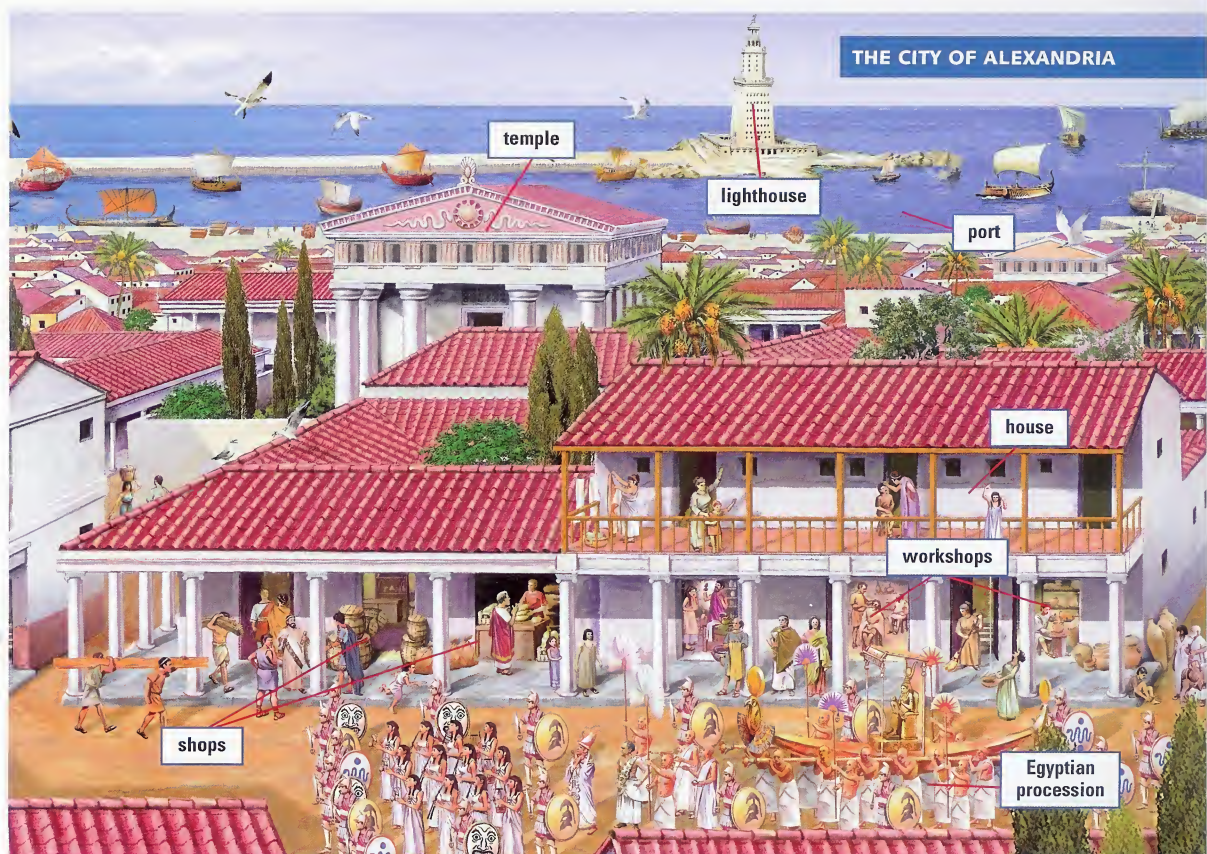
PLUTARCH. 2nd century BC.



THE CONQUESTS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT



- 1 Name the territories of Alexander the Great's Empire.
- 2 What new cities did he found?



5.2. THE HELLENISTIC KINGDOMS

When Alexander died at the young age of 33, his dream of a single empire died with him.

The Empire was divided into different kingdoms (Egypt, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, etc.). These kingdoms became known as Hellenistic kingdoms. Absolute monarchs and authoritative governments ruled these Hellenistic kingdoms.

The Egyptian city of **Alexandria** was the symbol of the new Hellenistic civilisation. It was organised like a Greek city with many temples and monuments. With its lighthouse, library and large port, it became a symbol of east meeting west.

- C** What happened to his empire when Alexander the Great died?

QUICK REVISION

- Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, created a great empire that reached to India.
- When Alexander died, his empire was divided into Hellenistic kingdoms that shared the Greek culture.

ACTIVITIES

- 1** How was Philip II's army organised? Why do you think they were so successful in battle?
- 2** How was Alexander the Great educated?
- 3** What were the Hellenistic kingdoms?
- 4** Copy and complete the sentences:
 - a) Alexander the Great dreamed of creating...
 - b) When Alexander died, his empire...
 - c) Alexandria represented...